(b) whether it is also a fact that double duty drawback will provide only partial relief to the exporters; and

(c) if so, the reasons for (a) above and how the Government are going to compensate exporters due to (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA): (a) The All Industry Rates (AIR) of Duty Drawback, 2005-06 were notified *vide* Notification No. 36/2005-Customs (N.T.) dated 2.5.2005, which came into force with effect from 5.5.2005. These rates were notified on the basis of recommendations of a Committee constituted by the Government for formulation of drawback rates. The Committee has had extensive consultations with exporters, Export Promotion Councils, trade bodies and other stakeholders. The exports of garment have shown 6.27% growth during the period June-August, 2005 as compared to June-August, 2004 after the drawback rates were revised on *ad-valorem* basis.

(b) and (c) The drawback rates have been determined on the basis of certain broad parameters including, *inter alia,* the prevailing prices of inputs, standard input/output norms (SION) published by DGFT, share of imports in the total cosumption of inputs, and the applied rates of duty. The incidence of duty on HSD/furnace oil as on education cess has been factored into the drawback calculations. The drawback rates on all garment products have been expressed in *ad valorm* terms.

Insurance package for Handloom Weavers

123. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into a tie-up with ICICI combered for an Insurance Package of handloom weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many weavers are estimated to get coverage from the scheme, State-wise details?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Health Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers has been introduced during the current financial year 2005-06 for implementation through the ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd.

(b) Under this scheme, the annual premium is Rs. 1,000/- per weaver out of which Rs. 800/- is to be contributed by Government of India and

Rs. 200/- by the weaver. The scheme is to cover not only the weaver but his wife and two children. It covers all pre-existing and new diseases and there is a substantial provision for OPD. The annual limit per family is Rs. 15,000/-, out of which Rs. 7,500/- is for OPD.

(c) 3 lakh handloom weavers all over the country are proposed to be covered under the scheme during the year 2005-06. No State-wise targets have been fixed.

Employment in handloom sector

124. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase employment in rural areas in handloom sector;

(b) the basic facilities provided for handloom industry and funds allocated for the rural handloom industry, State-wise;

(c) whether the rural people are getting proper employment in the handloom industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Government of India has been assisting the handloom sector which is decentralized in nature to sustain employment through implementation of various developmental and welfare schemes.

(b) The Government of India has been implementing various schemes for the development of handloom sector in the country *viz.* Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers Welfare Scheme, Handloom Export Scheme, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, Health Insurance Scheme, Implementation of Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985. A Statement showing State-wise funds released during 2004-2005 is annexed (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The general thrust of the handloom sector schemes implemented by Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms is to provide support for product diversification, design and skill upgradation and market access to the handloom weavers to augment their livelihood and increase their earnings and not for employment generation.